

Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 SIG-03 /029 R

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-----006880 132330Z /66

P R 132138Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 177359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: EFFECTS OF
POLLUTANTS ON AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (PROJECT 02.02-13)

REF: MOSCOW 16241 NOTAL

1. UNDER THE US-SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, AN
EXPERIMENT IS PLANNED TO BEGIN IN LATE JULY IN THE
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SOVIET UNION TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES ON
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS. THE SOVIET SIDE HAS JUST INFORMED
US THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF CERTAIN
PESTICIDE GRADE REAGENTS AND PESTICIDE STANDARDS TO
CONDUCT THE EXPERIMENT AND HAS ASKED THAT THE U.S.
PARTICIPANTS BRING AS LARGE A SUPPLY AS POSSIBLE OF
THESE CHEMICALS. UPON CHECKING WITH U.S. AIRLINES,

HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE AIRLINES ARE PROHIBITED FROM SHIPPING THE CHEMICALS BECAUSE OF THEIR CORROSIVE CHARACTERISTICS. WE WISH THEREFORE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROCURING THESE CHEMICALS IN EUROPE AND HAVING THEM SHIPPED TO MOSCOW.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ACTION ADDRESSEES COULD CHECK WITH LOCAL SOURCES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FOLLOWING CHEMICALS CAN BE PROCURED PROMPTLY FROM LOCAL SOURCES AND SHIPPED TO MOSCOW. IF THE CHEMICALS ARE AVAILABLE, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHEN THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW (THEY WOULD BE NEEDED THERE NO LATER THAN JULY 25.) PAYMENT FOR THE CHEMICALS WOULD BE MADE BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

3. THE CHEMICALS IN QUESTION ARE:

A. HIGH QUALITY PESTICIDE GRADE REAGENTS:

- 1 CASE (ABOUT 40 POUNDS) ACETONE
- 1 CASE PETROLEUM ETHER
- 2 CASES CYCLOHEXANE
- 2 CASES - METHYLENE CHLORIDE
- 25 POUNDS SODIUM FLUORISILL
- 2 CASES EI-ETHYL ETHER

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- 2 CASES METHANOL
- 2 CASES ETHANOL
- 1 GALLON TRICHLORO ACETIC ACID
- 100-200 GRAMS EDTA
- 5 POUNDS SODIUM HYDROXIDE
- 1 GALLON HYDROCHLORIC ACID
- 10 POUNDS SILICA GEL

B. PESTICIDE STANDARDS:

- 1 GRAM DYLOX (TRICHLORFON) $C_4H_8Cl_3PO_4$
DIMETHYL (2,2,2, TRICHLORO - 1 HYDROXYETHYL)
PHOSPHATE

- 1 GRAM DDVP (DICHLORVOS) $C_4H_7Cl_2O_4P$
2-2 DICHLOROVINYL DIMETHYL PHOSPHATE

4. ACTION REQUEST:

WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION OUTLINED IN PARA 2, IF POSSIBLE, BY JULY 18. REPLIES SHOULD BE CAPTIONED EPA FOR SHOSTAL. WE REGRET INCONVENIENCE TO

ADDRESSEE POSTS, BUT ABOVE REQUEST WAS NECESSITATED
BY LAST-MINUTE SOVIET INFORMATION ABOUT UNAVAILABILITY
OF CHEMICALS. FOR WARSAW, BUDAPEST AND PRAGUE: WE
LEAVE TO POST'S DISCRETION ADVISABILITY OF APPROACHING
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THIS MATTER. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, ENVIRONMENT, WATER POLLUTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE177359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: P.SHOSTAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-0131
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780762/aaaacanu.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae3bda75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EPA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 16241
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2015856
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (PROJECT 02.02-13)
TAGS: SENV, UR, US
To: HELSINKI VIENNA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae3bda75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014